

## Message Text

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43

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 IO-13

DPW-01 AID-20 EUR-25 RSR-01 /143 W

----- 027799

R 230410Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4957

INFO AMVNSUL BIEN HOA 904

AMCONSUL CAN THO

CINCPAC

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

USDEL JEC PARIS

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ACEO 11695: N/A

TAGS: HYNT VS

SUBJ: PUBLISHED LETTER TO PRESIDENT THIEU OF TRAN NGOC CHAU

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

REF: SAIGON 13111

1. THE TEXT BELOW IS AN INFORMAL MEMBASSY TRANSLATION OF A LETTER DATED LAST MARCH 6 THAT EX-DEPUTY TRAN NGOC CHAU ALLEGEDLY WROTE TO PRESIDENT THIEU REQUESTING RELEASE IN THE RVN INSTEAD OF TO THE COMMUNIST SIDE. THE LETTER APPEARED IN A "WHITE BOOK" ON CIVILIAN PRISONERS RECENTLY ISSUED BY OPPOSITION DEPUTY HO NGOC NHUAN. (SEE REFETL)

2. BEGIN TEXT. SAIGON, MARCH 6, 1973 TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM:

DEAR SIR:

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I AM INFORMED THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS DRAWN UP A LIST TO  
DELIVER ME TO THE NATIONAL LIBERATION FRONT, ON THE PRETEXT  
THAT I HAVE SERVED AS AN INTELLIGENCE AGENT FOR THE COMMUNISTS\*

3. I RESPECTFULLY SEND YOU THIS LETTER TO REQUEST YOUR RECON-  
SIDERATION OF THE ABOVE DECISION FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS:

(A) THE SENTENCE PASSED ON ME BY THE MILITARY COURT DID NOT  
CHARGE ME WITH ACTING AS AN INTELLIGENCE AGENT FOR THE  
COMMUNISTS AND ONLY CHARGED ME WITH - I STILL REMEMBER WELL  
THE ORIGINAL TEXT OF THE INDICTMENT - "LIAISON WITH ELEMENTS  
THAT COMMIT ACTS PREJUDICIAL TO THE NATIONAL SECURITY". HOW-  
EVER, THE SUPREME COURT LATER DECLARED THE ABOVE COURT  
UNCONSTITUTIONAL, AND MY SENTENCE DELIVERED BY THAT COURT WAS  
REVERSED ON OCT 30, 1970.

(B) THE RELATIONS BETWEEN MY ELDER BROTHER TRAN NGOC HIEN  
(SENTENCED BY THE COURT AS AN ELEMENT COMMITTING ACTS DETRI-  
MENTAL TO THE NATIONAL SECURITY) AND ME HAD A PURELY FRATERNAL  
NATURE, AND THE TENOR OF THE DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN US ONLY  
EXTENDED TO SEARCHING FOR A POSSIBILITY OF NATIONAL RECONCILA-  
TION TO END THE WAR. THE DOCUMENTS ON THE DEPOSITIONS OF TRAN  
NGOC HIEN, PROVIDED BY THE GENERAL DIRECTORATE OF POLICE, TO  
THE LOWER HOUSE, AND PUBLISHED BY MANY NEWSPAPERS IN THE COUNTRY  
AND ABROAD AT THE END OF 1969 AND EARLY IN 1970 HAVE  
PROVED THAT.

(C) AFTER FIGHTING THE COMMUNISTS FOR NEARLY 20 YEARS, I  
REALIZED THAT COMMUNISM COULD NOT BE COMPLETELY ANNIHILATED BY  
THE POLICIES ALREADY IMPLEMENTED, AND THE CONTINUATION OF  
SIMILAR POLICIES WOULD ONLY MAKE OUR COUNTRY MORE AND MORE  
DEPENDENT ON FOREIGN IMPERIALIST COUNTRIES AND MAKE THE  
LIFE OF OUR PEOPLE AND TROOPS MORE AND MORE MISERABLE, CREATING  
MANY MORE FAVORABLE MEANS FOR COMMUNISM TO DEVELOP AND LEADING  
OUR COUNTRY AND PEOPLE FARTHER AND FARTHER TOWARD RUIN. WITH  
THAT THOUGHT, I ENGAGED MYSELF IN POLITICS AND STRUGGLED  
POSITIVELY FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A CONCILIATORY AND MORE  
PRACTICAL POLICY, IN WHICH ALL VIETNAMESE WITHOUT DISTINCTION  
OF POLITICAL VIEW WOULD HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO LIVE TOGETHER  
IN CONCORD IN FRATERNITY, EQUALITY AND FREEDOM. IN CASE I AM  
ALLOWED TO LIVE UNDER THE NLF REGIME, I WILL NOT BE SO INDECENT  
TO LIVE COMPLETELY IN THE ABOVE SPIRIT OF FRATERNITY, EUALITY,  
AND FREEDOM, SINCE I HAVE BEEN A MEMBER OF THE GOVERNMENTS  
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IN SVN THAT HAVE POSITIVELY OPPOSED THE NLF FOR ALMOST 20 YEARS.

4. DEAR MR PRESIDENT,

IN THE PAST I HAVE BEEN AMONG THE VIETNAMESE ON THIS SIDE,  
OPPOSING THE VIETNAMESE ON THE OTHER SIDE. IN THE FUTURE  
I CANNOT BE AMONG THE VIETNAMESE ON THE OTHER SIDE, OPPOSING  
THE VIETNAMESE ON THIS SIDE.

5. I EARNESTLY DESIRE TO BE RELEASED IN ORDER TO BE ABLE TO  
CONTRIBUTE TO THE EFFORTS AIMED AT SUPPRESSING ANY BARRIER  
SEPARATING VIETNAMESE AND ANNULLING ANY RANCOR BETWEEN  
VIETNAMESE, TO END THE WAR AND TO BUILD PEACE, INDEPENDENCE,  
AND FREEDOM FOR THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE.

RESPECTFULLY YOURS,

(SIGNED) TRAN NGOC CHAU

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY DEPUTY (1967-1971)

SECGEN OF THE LOWER HOUSE (1968-1969)

JUDGE OF THE SPECIAL COURT (1969-1970)

END TEXT.

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## Message Attributes

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